



Letter to the Editor

Socio-demographic features of the victim of sexual assault



Dear Editor,

We read an interesting article entitled “Evaluation of sexual assaults in Turkey” published recently in the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine.¹ Sexual violence is rampant worldwide and has a far reaching medical and social outcome. Women and children are the more common victims of the different forms of sexual violence. Karanfil et al.¹ have presented the socio-demographic characteristics of sexual assault victims in general. The study reports that vaginal penetration was the most common occurrence in the victims of sexual assault followed by anal penetration. The authors state that the majority of the victims in their study were females (82.7%) and that the mean age of the victims was 16.78 ± 7.16 years (Range 3 years–70 years). For such a wide age range observed in the study, it would have been useful if information on the age distribution was provided to the readers for a useful interpretation of the study findings. Various forms of sexual violence may be gender and age specific. It would have been interesting to note the gender and age related variations for the different forms of sexual assault reported in the study. In addition details on a breakup of age in relation to sex in the sexual assault cases would further enhance the scientific utility of the article. We seek these information from the authors' as it would not only provide a better understanding of the problem status of sex crimes in their country but also prove to be a useful

source of information for a comparative analysis by future researchers.

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Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

Reference

1. Karanfil R, Keten A, Zeren C, Arslan MM, Eren A. Evaluation of sexual assaults in Turkey. *J Forensic Leg Med* 2013;**20**(5):404–7.

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